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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An optical disk apparatus that is capable of accurately determining a characteristic of an optical disk is disclosed, where the optical disk has recording and/or  
5   replaying characteristics that vary under different conditions. Also, a method for determining such characteristic is disclosed. Specifically, the optical disk apparatus, which is adapted to irradiate an optical beam on an optical disk to realize signal recording,  
10   replays a signal recorded on the optical disk after a predetermined time period elapses from the time of the recording of the signal, determines a characteristic of the optical disk based on the replayed signal, and controls the signal recording on the optical disk based on  
15   the determined characteristic.